(a) whether it has been decided to send one Member each of the Planning Commission to the participating States to assess and to make indepth study of the problems of these States regarding the implementation of the Sardar Sarovar Project;

(b) if so, the views taken of the participating States in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have examined the recommendations made by the members; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the efforts being made by the Government for early settlement of the dispute and the completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) to (d) The Chief Minister of Gujarat had requested the Prime Minister for his intervention by convening a meeting of the Chief Ministers of all the four participating States to see that the construction work of the Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP) is resumed immediately during the current construction season. The construction of the dam has been affected mainly due to problems of rehabilitation and resettlement of people as affected by submergence. Considering that the completion of the project would yield vast economic benefits to the region and complete cooperation is necessary amongst the four participating States for smooth and timely implementation of this project, early resolution of pending issues becomes necessary. As such and to pave the way for holding a meeting at the Prime Minister's level with the four party States, it has been considered advisable to make efforts through informal talks separately with each of the four party States so as to narrow down their differences and thereby to bring these four States to a point of convergence. It is against this background, that the member (Irrigation), Planning Commission has decided to hold meetings separately with each of the Party States.

Manufacture of Light Transport Aircraft

719. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to manufacture Light Transport Aircraft;

(b) whether the National Aerospace Laboratories, Bangalore has been asked to develop and design such aircraft;

(c) if so, the fund sanctioned for the purpose;

(d) the steps taken by the National Aerospace Laboratories, Bangalore in this regard; and

(e) the details of the programme of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (e) National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) has no proposal to manufacture Light Transport Aircraft (LTA). However, they have initiated an in-house project for design and development of LTA. The configuration of LTA has been frozen. Detailed design is now under way but no specific time-frame can be indicated for its completion at this stage.

No fund has been sanctioned as yet by the Government. NAL are, however, utilising their own reserve funds for carrying out the Research and Development activities.

Institute on Watch List

720. SHRI SURESH PRABHU :
DR. M. JAGANNATH :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. Administration has recently decided to place the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore on its watch list; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) As per available information, the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore is not among the Indian Organisations notified by the United States under its domestic legislation for export control regulations.

[Translation]

Difficulty in Residing at Border

721. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government have been drawn towards the news-item captioned "Seema Par Jeena Muhal" published in the weekly edition of 'Dainik Jagran' dated June 22, 1997;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and